Co-Teachers: The Board Game

Overview

The concept of a co-teacher is that two teachers share equal responsibilities for a class of students. It is popularly used for inclusive classrooms when one teacher is a general education teacher and the other is a special education teacher. This game was developed to help teachers inexperienced with coteaching as well as those currently in coteaching situations. The goal is to improve communication, respect, and problem-solving skills in co-taught situations.

The game has a few simple rules and takes about 2 minutes to learn and about 40 minutes to play.

It is a collaborative game where the players succeed together.

For inquiries, contact Christopher Shamburg cshamburg@kean.edu

List of "Big Question Cards"

1. What is one of my biggest strengths as an educator?
2. What is something that I once found challenging but now feel more comfortable with?
3. What do I find troubling as an educator?

4. What would I like to learn more about professionally?

5. What is a simple way to improve the social and emotional climate of a classroom?

6. What part of teaching do I enjoy the most?

7. What was one important life event that led me to become a teacher?

8. If I were not a teacher, what would be another career that I would like to try?

9. What am I looking forward to doing professionally?

10. What am I looking forward to doing personally?

11. What are some important elements of an 'ideal classroom'?

12. What are some suggestions for dealing with very quiet students?

13. Would I consider myself more of an introvert or extrovert? Why?

14. My favorite thing to teach is...

15. When I was a student, I appreciated teachers who…

16. I would never want a student to feel…

17. When I was in school, I remember enjoying...

18. What is something that I wish I heard more often when I was a student?

19. If my students, my colleagues, and my supervisors in a room, what words would they all agree to describe to me?

20. A book that changed the way I look at the world was…

21. I get inspiration from…

22. I tend to overreact when…

23. I feel a sense of awe or wonder when…

24. The highest compliment a person could give me would be to say that I…

25. If I were given a lot of money to write a book on any topic, the book would be…

List of "Say Something Now Cards"

1. Your co-teacher is on the computer checking out possible honeymoon locations while you are trying to get a reading circle together. What do you say to redirect? Say something now.
2. Your co-teacher frequently asks you to "cover for me" and leaves the classroom to make phone calls. What would you say to address it? Say something now.
3. You think that your co-teacher's approach to one-on-one instruction is harsh. Sometimes it makes you cringe when you hear it. Though otherwise, you enjoy the partnership. Say something now.
4. You admire the way your co-teacher defuses conflicts between students. You've been testing it out and are getting good at it. You want to say something about it—a cross between a compliment and a thank you. Say something now.
5. There are student projects that need to be graded, and they have detailed rubrics. You think that both teachers should grade every project, but you know that your co-teacher doesn't feel the same way. Say something now.
6. There is a concept that your co-teacher is teaching to the whole class. You see that students are not getting it, and you have a method you think the whole class will benefit from. However, your co-teacher is "on a roll" up there. Say something now.
7. You saw a graphic organizer that your co-teacher used with some students last week. It was very effective. You would like to use it for the whole class. Say something now.
8. Your co-teacher often does 'Binder Checks' for some of the students. Initially, you thought it was too juvenile for students in the upper grades, but now you see how effective these checks can be. Say something now.

9. You were supposed to prepare a section of a lesson plan for today, but yesterday you were just too tired to do it. You want to explain this to your co-teacher. Say something now.
10. As you're working with your co-teacher, you are impressed with all the ideas and knowledge she shares on the spot, but you can get overwhelmed. Figure out a way to ask for some dedicated time to work together on it. Say something now.
11. A parent is scheduled to come in, and she referred to you as the "assistant teacher" in an email. How do you address that with the parent? Say something now.
12. Your co-teacher prepared a three-day lesson without consulting you at all. You felt extremely underutilized and undervalued when she started. Do you say something during class? Afterwards? Say something now.
13. When another teacher is out, they will frequently take your co-teacher as a substitute, but not you. Your co-teacher mentioned this to the principal and now the principal wants your opinion on this situation. Say something now.
14. A student is continually disruptive, and an administrator is blaming you, and not your co-teacher, for poor classroom management. What do you say privately to this administrator? Say something now.
15. Your co-teacher just got a poor classroom evaluation that you both believe was not deserved. What advice would you give. Say something now.
16. You and your co-teacher just successfully planned and used a station rotation model for the first time. It was more successful than you imagined. Say something now.
17. The school year has ended with your new co-teacher. You were not only working colleagues, but become friends along the way. Say something now.

18. Your co-teacher noticed a student who needed something that you had not noticed yourself. You want to know the cues she picked up on. Say something now.
19. Your co-teacher is only assigned for two periods with you and seems to have an incredibly difficult schedule. Your co-teacher obviously has many more preps than you, but you still want her to have the parity and respect she deserves when she is with you. Say something now.
20. The special educator says, “I don’t know the content.” Say something now.
21. You are co-teaching in a middle school and a 13-year-old student wants to be called by a name that is not used at their home. The parents are insisting that the given name be used, and this troubles the student in your class. How do you discuss with your co-teacher. Say something now.
22. During a lockdown drill you jumped into action and directed everyone in your class. Afterwards your co-teach said that you came off very bossy and patronizing. Your reaction? Say something now.
23. You love teaching a unit on figurative language and your co-teacher has some ideas that are not quite up to your standards. Say something now.
24. Your co-teacher is explaining the origins of the Civil War to the class, and she has some of the facts wrong. Do you wait until later or say something now? What do you say and when?
25. Your co-teacher enjoys decorating the classroom at Christmas time, but you see some students with different religious backgrounds looking very uncomfortable as your co-teacher continues. Say something now.